

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1008

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, EEWT, CSCE

SUBJ: ECE - FOURTH SEMINAR ON EAST-WEST TRADE PROMOTION,
MARKETING AND BUSINESS CONTACTS, RESUMED PREPARATORY
MEETING JULY 13

REF: STATE 164040

1. MISSION ADVISED BY POLISH MISSION OFFICIAL THAT IN VIEW OF LACK OF CERTAINTY REGARDING ABILITY TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISE ON TOPICS FOR SEMINAR, AS WELL AS PROBLEMS RE ATTENDANCE DUE TO HOLIDAY PERIOD, EASTERN CAUCUS HAS DECIDED TO REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF PREPARATORY MEETING, PROBABLY TO EARLY AUTUMN, TO ALLOW OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. POLISH OFFICIAL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS FOR SEMINAR TO BE SUCCESS AND BELIEVES POSTPONEMENT PREFERABLE TO NEW FAILURE. SINCE EASTERN CAUCUS DECISION JUST TAKEN, ECE SECRETARIAT AND WESTERN CAUCUS NOT YET CONSULTED AND POSTPONEMENT NOT YET OFFICIAL.

2. ATTITUDE OF ECE DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (SCOTT) AND WESTERN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN (KASTOFF) HAS BEEN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, BELIEVING MAY 10 SESSION OF PREPARATORY MEETING WAS VICTIM OF TIMING AND PERSONALITIES, AND THAT HAVING GOTTEN TRADE POLICY FRUSTRATIONS OFF THEIR CHESTS AT SECOND INFORMAL MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS MAY 26 - 28,
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EASTERN EUROPEANS WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE MORE

FLEXIBLE POSITION RATHER THAN HAVE FAILURE TO MAR
"SPIRIT OF HELSINKI". IN THIS REGARD, KASTOFF
FELT THAT HIS REMONSTRATIONS TO CHAIRMAN OF EASTERN
CAUCUS (SCHUMANN, GDR) HAD CONTRIBUTED TO RELATIVELY
SMOOTH, IF NOT PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE, COURSE OF
TRADE EXPERTS' MEETING. ATTITUDES OF SCOTT AND
KASTOFF WERE NOT BASED ON ANY CONCRETE INFORMATION
FROM EASTERN EUROPEANS, HOWEVER. IN CONVERSATIONS
WITH MISSION, LATTER HAVE CONSIDENTLY EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT RESUMED PREPARATORY MEETING WOULD BE SUCCESS
BUT HAVE BEEN UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO STATE ANY REASON
FOR SUCH HOPE.

3. WHILE MISSION ASSUMES THAT PREPARATORY MEETING WILL
IN FACT BE POSTPONED, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER
DEPARTMENT WISHES MISSION TO PRESS IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS
AND EVENTUAL MEETING FOR US PRIORITY TOPICS SET FORTH
STATE 76854, WHICH, AS STATED
GENEVA 3812, RECEIVED SCANT SUPPORT, OR WHETHER TOPIC
ON DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS FOR CONSUMER GOODS DESIRED BY
MOST WESTERN EUROPEANS IS ACCEPTABLE.

4. MISSION SEES NO NEED FOR DELEGATE FROM
WASHINGTON FOR ONE DAY MEETING. SPRINGER NOW
PLANS TO BE ON LEAVE JULY 8- 23, BUT LOFTIN FULLY
BRIEFED AND READY TO STEP IN IF SIGNALS ARE SWITCHED
AT LAST MINUTE AND MEETING IS HELD. MISSION WILL
OF COURSE PARTICIPATE IN AND REPORT FULLY ON INFORMAL
CONSULTATIONS AND PREPARATORY MEETING WHEN HELD. ABRAMS

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